

'Half Truth Pattern Continues by U.S.'

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NEW YORK — (AP) — Leslie H. Gelb, leader of the team which produced the Pentagon Papers, charges that government officials have followed and are continuing a "pattern of concealment and half-truths" to the American public in all phases of the nation's foreign policies, not just in Vietnam.

Gelb, director of Defense Department Policy Planning and Arms Control from 1967 to 1969, headed 36 persons on the Vietnam History Task Force that produced the papers.

Writing in the Sept. 17 issue of Life magazine, Gelb said former Secretary of Defense McNamara instructed the group "to let the chips fall where they may."

However, wrote Gelb, "most of our elected and appointed leaders in the national security establishment felt they had the right — and beyond that — the obligation to manipulate the American public in the national interest as they defined it."

Gelb contended the reason the executive branch has been able to operate with a credibility gap is that virtually everyone has accepted it.

"The Congress and the press have been full parties to this system," he said. "The Congress has rarely asked for more information or consultation than it has been given . . . the press, while it has periodically blown the whistle, has gener-

ally cooperated in the selling process."

Gelb urged "a move by our leaders toward openness with the American people," adding:

"It does not mean no more secrets or a daily or weekly inspection of the decision-making process. It does mean that our leaders need to err on the side of telling, for if they do not, Americans will come to believe that everything the government says is a lie and all governmental actions must be opposed."